

Activities: Canoe Basics

Grab that Paddle!

Overview:

Students identify various parts of paddles, canoes, and kayaks by grabbing the respective part as it is called out in a fast paced game.

Associated Objectives:

- ❑ Students will become familiar with terminology and equipment associated with canoeing and kayaking.

Time:

15 – 30 minutes

Materials:

Canoe or kayak, paddle

Directions:

Using examples of paddling equipment, name and describe parts of a canoe or kayak, and their respective paddles. Refer to the **Paddling Equipment** section of the *Background Information* for an overview of terms.

Have students form a circle around one piece of paddling equipment. Elect one student as “caller,” and one as “grabber.” The “caller” names a part of the craft or paddle.

After a part is called out, the “grabber” grabs the part and hangs on to it until the end of the game. The student to the right of the “caller” becomes the next “caller” and the original “caller” becomes the “grabber.” Each “caller” must name a different part. “Grabbers” must hang onto parts until there is no one left in the circle. (Instructors will have to name a part for the last “grabber.”)

Parts of a...

Paddle: grip, throat, shaft/loom, blade, tip

Canoe: keel, ribs, gunwale, thwarts, freeboard (Optional terms: amidship, bow, stern, starboard, port, forward, aft, trim)

Kayak: floatation bag, braces/support walls, foot peg (Optional terms: bow, stern, starboard, port, forward, aft, trim)

Evaluation:

Students should be able to successfully name the parts of a canoe or kayak and paddle.

Extensions:

Have students draw equipment and label parts.

Create flash cards with the term on one side and a drawing or description of the part on the other. Students may use these to quiz each other or play “Memory” or “Go Fish.”